New Issues (September – October 2006)



PSE policy is that "Anyone who says that the gum skips on an RW1 stamp or the short gumming on the Washington-Franklin stamp don't matter must be a person who is trying to sell the items. Simply put, in today's never hinged mania, it does matter if the gum skips become distracting. One or two or even three teeny 0.5mm specks can be accepted, but make it a whole bunch of small specks or one big skip and it matters. "

Natural Gum Bends, Creases or Wrinkles -- On flat plate printed US stamps the gumming process sometimes caused gum bends, creases or wrinkles. Gum bends, creases and wrinkles are all in the same family being commonly used terms for increasingly severe distortions of the gum and paper. **PSE** calls gum bends only if there are two or more or if the one is at the borderline between a bend and a crease. Gum wrinkles are in the same family, but they are slightly different than gum bends or creases. A gum wrinkle can occur anywhere on a stamp, can be of any length and commonly does not extend in a straight line.

Natural Paper Inclusions -- US stamps occasionally have one or more natural inclusion specks embedded in the paper. These vary in size, color and location. They effectively lower the value of a stamp if they are visually objectionable and so the color of the stamp can also be a factor affecting the visual effect. It is a judgment call whether **PSE** will mention a natural paper inclusion on a certificate of authentication or will downgrade the soundness of a stamp if it is to be graded.

Natural Paper Folds -- Some of the very early US stamps were printed on paper sheets that had tiny pre-printing crimped paper folds. Years after printing and use these crimped folds could be pulled apart thus leaving a strip up to perhaps 1 or 2mm wide which would have no printing ink. No such stamp has ever been submitted to **PSE** for grading and so no **PSE** policy exists regarding how we would assess soundness.

We will continue the Stamp Faults topic next month. **All PSE material come from their website at: www.psestamp.com** – so those with web access please visit the site. There is a wealth of information available in more depth than presented here.